

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
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*** Public Notice ***

Workers at Harrison County's Keller Manufacturing Company Inc. receive federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Harrison County's Keller Manufacturing Co. Inc. have qualified for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

Founded in 1866 and originally a wagon maker, Keller Manufacturing Co. is a leading producer of wooden bedroom, dining room, and occasional furniture.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and it must be approved before benefits can be released. A petition was filed by a company official on May 13, 2004, on behalf of the employees.

The USDOL investigation found that an increase of wood furniture imports contributed to the job loss at Keller. With the ruling, any employee who was totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 12, 2003 through two years from the date of certification is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at Keller Manufacturing. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits, or a wage subsidy of 50 percent of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA, and ATAA are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties may also contact Cal Kaina the New Albany WorkOne at 812/ 948-6102, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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